

Application No. 10/083,451

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) A method of compacting an endoprosthesis into a compacted dimension comprising

providing a self-expanding endoprosthesis comprising a stent-element;

providing at least one internally tapered die proportioned to compact the endoprosthesis, the tapered die including multiple flutes and grooves therein;

passing the endoprosthesis through the tapered die to reduce its dimensions, the flutes and grooves causing the endoprosthesis to fold into uniform pleats in its compacted dimension.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 that further comprises passing the endoprosthesis through the tapered die at least one additional time.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 that further comprises subsequently passing the endoprosthesis through a second taper die having a smaller diameter.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 that further comprises passing the endoprosthesis through a tapered die having a larger diameter prior to compacting in the at least one tapered die.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 that further comprises providing the stent-element with forward facing apices and rearward facing apices; providing a tether line attached to or aligned with one or more of the apices; pulling the endoprosthesis through the at least one tapered die using the tether line.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 that further comprises providing an actuation mechanism; attaching the tether line to the actuation mechanism to pull the endoprosthesis through the at least one tapered die.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 that further comprises providing multiple tether lines; aligning the tether lines with only forward facing apices so that when the tether lines are pulled through the grooves only the forward facing apices are visible on the outside of the compressed endoprosthesis.

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18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 that further comprises positioning the flutes evenly around the tapered die so as to produce a uniform spacing of pleats around the compressed endoprosthesis.
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 that further comprises providing a uniform spacing of grooves within the at least one endoprosthesis; providing a tether line to correspond with each groove; and passing the endoprosthesis through the tapered die using the tether lines.
20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 that further comprises cooling the endoprosthesis prior to passing through the tapered die.
21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 that further comprises allowing the endoprosthesis to expand before passing it through the at least one tapered die at least one additional time.

Claims 22-45 (Cancelled).